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**From:** Benjamin Pauli [bpauli@kettering.edu]  
**Sent:** 9/13/2021 1:38:46 PM  
**To:** Fox, Radhika [Fox.Radhika@epa.gov]  
**CC:** smorduno [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] Tejada, Matthew [Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov]; Lewis, Sheila [Lewis.Sheila@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Fred [jenkins.fred@epa.gov]; Kumar, Chitra [Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov]; Orr, Jeremy [jorr@nrdc.org]; Fritz, Jan (fritzj) [jan.fritz@uc.edu]; vmking [vmking@marathonpetroleum.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Bringing your attention to an EPA petition on Benton Harbor

Hello all,

Thank you for initiating this conversation, Sylvia. I am available 10-2:30 on Thursday and all day on Friday if we'd like to schedule a meeting.

Best,  
Ben

On Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 6:50 AM Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Sylvia –

Thank you for bringing this to my attention. I am following up Office of Water, OECA, and Region 5 staff on this. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and others involved in the emergency petition later this week if that is of interest.

My best,

radhika

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**From:** Sylvia Orduño [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:27 PM  
**To:** Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; Lewis, Sheila <Lewis.Sheila@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Fred <jenkins.fred@epa.gov>; Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>; Orr, Jeremy <jorr@nrdc.org>; bpauli <bpauli@kettering.edu>; Fritz, Jan (fritzj) <jan.fritz@uc.edu>; vmking <vmking@marathonpetroleum.com>  
**Subject:** Bringing your attention to an EPA petition on Benton Harbor

Dear Admin. Asst. Fox,

You may already be aware of this but I wanted to bring to your attention an emergency petition to EPA filed today for assistance with a 6th lead action level exceedance in Benton Harbor, Michigan. It is directed to you along with Administrator Regan, Region 5 Acting Admin Newton, and Acting Asst Admin Starfield. (You should have received it via email and regular mail.)

I am cc'ing OEJ leadership and Region 5 members of the NEJAC here too.

I recognize you are well aware of lead service lines issues in many EJ communities and are working hard to ensure that the Office of Water and other EPA offices can and will be responsive to the public health and infrastructure needs of impacted communities. Unfortunately, many efforts to address this small community's crisis with Michigan and Region 5 officials have not been met with the urgency that is required for this very low-income, Black majority to have safe drinking water since 2018. We have a public health crisis underway amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that I hope you can help address in a very expedited manner.

Based on your open and welcoming conversations with the NEJAC on the importance of EJ issues, and that this community's concerns have come during the Council public comments and discussions, I thought it important to note this. We can't have soon enough a revised EPA lead and Copper Rule and resources to address the water crises in our communities.

Radhika, thank you for receiving this and I look forward to discussing the matter more with EPA HQ and Region 5 leadership and members of the Benton Harbor community in the near future. Please know that we will continue to follow up on efforts with local, state, and regional officials meanwhile.

With much appreciation and regard,

Sylvia Orduño

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization

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*Flint Fights Back: Environmental Justice and Democracy in the Flint Water Crisis* (MIT Press 2019):

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/flint-fights-back>

President of the Board, Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint ([etmflint.org](http://etmflint.org))

Vice Chair, Flint Water System Advisory Council

Member, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council